



**CENTRO DI ATENEO
PER I DIRITTI UMANI**
ANTONIO PAPISCA



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA**



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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE WINTER SCHOOL ON “Human Rights and Democracy in the Era of New Challenges”.

The Human Rights Centre “Antonio Papisca” - University of Padua, with the financial support of the Padua University under the “Shaping a World-Class University - year 2024” programme and the co-financing of the Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development CCSDD, launch a call for **20 places for each module** in the Winter School (WS) on “Human Rights and Democracy in the Era of New Challenges”.

Location, language, and contents

The activities will be held at the Human Rights Centre “Antonio Papisca” - University of Padua headquarters: via Beato Pellegrino, 28 Padova, on **10 -15 March 2025**.

English is the working language.

The WS is divided into 5 modules. Each module includes one key expert presentation, a panel discussion, as well as presentation and a discussion of research papers. Students can simultaneously apply for several modules, according to their interests.

Module 1 - Human Rights in the Era of Social Media

- *How to find an appropriate balance between freedom of expression and regulation of social media?*
- *Which standards and principles for regulation of traditional media are applicable also for social media? Examples of successful regulation of social media?*
- *Overregulation of social media: when it happens and what are the reasons and effects?*
- *Journalistic freedoms and social media: are bloggers journalists? What are their freedoms and responsibilities?*

Module 2 - Human Rights in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

- *In which areas can digital technologies and AI enhance human rights? Any positive examples?*
- *What are the main human rights risks associated with digital technologies and AI?*
- *How does the regulation of digital technologies and AI help mitigate the risks? Which new instruments need to be envisaged to address the rapid evolution of digital technologies and AI and its impact on human rights?*
- *Insights on the adoption of different international instruments on digital technologies and AI. What are the expectations from these instruments?*
- *Comparative practices of the regulation of digital technologies and AI at the national level?*



Module 3 - Democracy in the Era of Electoral Challenges

- *Why and when elections become a matter of the international concern? What is the role of human rights in this process?*
- *What are instruments for the assessment of elections? What are the 'good electoral practices' and what makes them such?*
- *Why some elections do not reflect the will of the people?*
- *What is the role of elections in democracies and non-democracies? Do non-democracies need elections?*
- *Does it matter to have international access to non-democratic elections?*

Module 4 - Money in Politics in the Era of Globalization

- *Does regulation of political financing matter for democratization?*
- *Are there any international standards for regulation of political finance?*
- *How is transparency and accountability of institutions linked with political finance?*
- *What are the main tools to combat corruption?*
- *What anti-corruption practices should be incorporated in the national frameworks and what obstacles need to be overcome?*

Module 5 – Human Rights and Democracy in the Era of New Challenges: novelties in Human rights protection and litigation. Environmental Challenges

Final Workshop and closing

- *What are the specific features of protection of environmental rights? What are the recent examples of the influence of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, and practices of tackling these issues?*
- *Should behavior of states towards the environmental protection change? What are new positive obligations of states vis-à-vis our environmental rights?*
- *What is the role of international cooperation and international influence in tackling environmental issues from the human rights perspective?*
- *How do human rights concepts change when it comes to jurisprudence on environmental rights?*

Admission requirements

Admissible participants must meet any the following criteria:

a. Academic and professional qualifications:

- To hold a Master's degree in any relevant field;
- To be enrolled in a PhD programme;
- To be enrolled in any master degree programme;
- To have a collaborative or employment contract with an organisations working in the field of human rights.

b. Linguistic qualifications:

- To hold a certificate of B2 or higher level of proficiency in English awarded by a recognised institution (this item does not apply to applicants having English as their first language).

Application procedure

To participate in this selection, applicants must fill out the [application form](#) available at this [link by 1.00 pm on 17 February](#) and send it with the following documents to the e-mail address centro.dirittiumani@unipd.it:



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1. a valid ID card;
2. a copy of the language certificate or other document attesting the applicant's proficiency in the English language;
3. a document certifying the applicant's academic enrolment, if applicable;
4. a motivation statement in English (up to 1500 characters, with spaces), identifying also the modules you are willing to attend;
5. an updated CV;
6. any additional qualifications which may be relevant to the participants.

Selection procedure and publication of the ranking list

A Committee to evaluate the applications and draw the ranking will be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Centre "Antonio Papisca" of the University of Padua. The Committee will also implement criteria of non-discrimination and diversity, including in the applicants' academic background.

Should the Committee deem it necessary, a face-to-face or online interview may be arranged; if this is the case, candidates will be notified of the time and place of the interview. Failure to attend the interview will result in the automatic exclusion of the candidate from the selection.

Once the Committee has completed its task, the ranking list of admitted candidates will be published on the Human Rights Centre's website on 28 February 2025.

Should a selected candidate withdraw, the next eligible candidate on the ranking list shall be awarded the place.

Art. 6. Economic provisions

There are no tuition fees. The University of Padua will provide coffee breaks on the days of the Winter School. There is no scholarship or grant provided by the University of Padua for participation in the WS.

For further information:

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President
Marco Mascia